

"Compón Un Song" RULES

General Rules:

The Songwriting Contest is open to Cubans currently resident in Cuba and aged 18 years and over. The Contest is organized by the Cultural Office of the United States Interests Section (USINT).

Each participant may submit recordings of up to two (2) original compositions in the following genres: jazz, traditional Cuban, pop-rock, hip-hop/reggaeton, fusion. Compositions may be about any theme, but should not include overtly sexual, violent or political material. Compositions may be up to (three) 3 minutes in length and should be submitted in MP3 audio file format no larger than 5Mb via email to havanaprensaycultura@gmail.com. Compositions may also be submitted on CD or USB; participants should email havanaprensaycultura@gmail.com or call 833-3967 to arrange a date and time for delivery to USINT. All submissions should be accompanied by:

- (i) details of the instrumentation used;
- (ii) the name, date of birth, address, contact telephone number and email address (if available) of the composer;
- (iii) a short biography of the composer/s;

The contest commences on February 9, 2012. The closing date for entries is April 8, 2011. Any submissions received after midnight on April 8, 2011 will not be eligible to participate.

All submissions will be posted on the USINT facebook page, located at www.facebook.com/havana.usint and will be available for public play.

Prizes and Selection of the Winners:

A prize will be awarded to the winning composition in each of the five genres (jazz, traditional Cuban, pop-rock, hip-hop/reggaeton, fusion) as selected by a panel of judges. The judging panel will take the following into account: (i) musicality; (ii) instrumentation; (iii) originality.

There will be a total of five prizes awarded. Each prize will consist of a certificate for studio time for the recording, mixing and production of three (3) compositions. At the time of the recording, all musical arrangements should be completed; compositions should have been properly rehearsed prior and musicians must provide their own instruments.

The composer and musician/s who collaborated on the recording of the five winning compositions will be invited to perform at "Noche Musical" to celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month, to be held in Havana on Friday, 4 May, 2012.

In addition, a "popularity" prize will be awarded to the winning composition in each of the five genres as selected by the USINT facebook community. The USINT facebook community will be asked to "vote" for their preferred composition/s, using the facebook "like" application; those compositions obtaining the most "likes" will be deemed the winners. The composers of these prizes will each receive a master recording of an American jazz musician.

All prizes will be presented at the Noche Musical on Friday, 4 May, 2012.

Duration and Key Dates:

February 9 - April 8, 2012: Submission of recordings of original compositions via email to: havanaprensacultura@gmail.com or delivery in person to the U.S. Interests Section

April 8, 2012: Closing date for submission of entries.

April 24, 2012: Announcement of winning compositions via the USINT internet and facebook pages. Winning individuals will be advised directly by telephone and/or email using the information submitted with their composition.

May 4, 2012: Musical evening to celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month.

Notes:

The Songwriting Contest is organized by the Public Affairs Office of USINT. By submitting a composition/s to the Contest, the participant affirms that he or she has obtained all necessary rights, licenses, consensus and permissions to use that composition. The Contest organizers and panel of judges reserve the right to reject any composition that is of an overtly political, sexual or violent nature. USINT reserves the right to use, reproduce, distribute and display any compositions submitted in any way, shape or form. USINT will not be responsible for any property rights or other liabilities resulting from the use of the composition.

If for any reason it is not possible to run the Songwriting Contest as planned, including and without limitation, infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of the Contest, the Contest Organizers reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to cancel, modify or terminate the Contest.

The judges' decision will be final. Prizes will be non-transferable, and recipients must abide by the conditions of the prizes. USINT is not responsible for any misuse or misinterpretation of the prizes.

The Noche Musical will take place on the evening of Friday, May 4, 2012. Performers will be required to attend a sound check on Thursday, May 3 or Friday, May 4, 2012, and will be required to provide any background music or specific instrumentation required for their performances.